

Kingfield Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday November 13, 2023; 6:00 PM Webster Hall 38 School Street

Attendance

Municipal Officers: Wade Browne, Morgan Dunham and Kim Jordan

Municipal Staff: Leanna Targett (Town Manager). Travis Targett (Wastewater Superintendent)

Public: Dee Menear, Louise Hiltz, Nathan Hiltz, Sue Davis, Claudia Diller, Julie Swain, Myra Coffin, Bob Lightbody, Jeffery Maget and Henry Williams

Via Zoom: Karyn Varney and Danielle Mathieu

Absent: Hunter Lander

Chairman Browne calls the meeting to order.

Board reviews meeting minutes from October 16th and October 25th, 2023. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept both minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Discussion with Julie Swain concerning studying our involvement in MSAD #58. Julie Swain says she is before the board as she feels that Kingfield needs a better deal when it comes to the school. Julie says she noticed in her taxes that there was a 30% increase in her taxes this year and none of the other towns had an increase like that. Julie says the calculation is based upon valuation and we need a better deal. We have 19% of the kids in the school system and we pay 40%. Something is out of whack. Julie says as a town we should get together and look at this. Chairman Browne says the budget has always increased and every year he goes to the budget meetings there are a few individuals that attempt to lower items, and they are instantly shot down by the majority in the room. The people do not want to shut a school down as it eventually shuts a town down. Selectman Jordan states that a lot of factors go into the school budget and a lot of consideration. Selectman Jordan says our kids do not want to leave the district and their parents support that. Selectman Jordan says when we restructured, we made it very well know that we would not know the real savings or outcome until the 23-24 school year concluded. Julie says she is not in favor of a school closing down but she would really like the board to consider looking at the long-term effect on this. Julie says we need to change from valuation to population for a formula. Julie says I have been told that the board needs to vote to change this. We only have 96 kids in the entire district and 106 are tuition which does not include New Portland kids. Julie says we need to get a better deal for Kingfield. Following further discussion Chairman Browne indicates that it is in Julies best interest to get on the agenda with the school board and to start discussions there.

Next item is a discussion with Claudia Diller on parking lot light. Claudia says she believes the parking lot light has gotten brighter. She says it is like having car headlights pointed at our house. She asks if it is possible to put a dimmer bulb in the light or a filter on the light. Claudia says it is brighter than it was. Selectman Jordan explains that during the recent trunk or treat the area was not well lit and that you couldn't even see the kids unless they were right up to

your table. Claudia says the streetlight on Riverside is a lot less offensive now and asks if the board could consider a bonnet or something or the parking lot light, so it doesn't go directly into her living room. Claudia says the blue light that was installed on the snowmobile building was a beauty and wonders why it was installed. Selectman Browne says the lights on the snowmobile club building are for the groomers and safety. Following further discussion Claudia says there is no need for daylight there and maybe the filter has flown off and asks the board to look into it.

Chairman Browne recognizes Engineer Bob Lightbody to discuss Island Road. Bob says Approximately 100' upstream of the Centennial Bridge, along the north bank of the Carrabassett River, there is an area of streambank that forms the outlet of a flood channel. This flood channel which creates the northeast side of the island, is approximately 70' wide by 800' long from inlet to roadway structure. The roadway structure is approximately 70' long (spanning the flood channel), 20' wide (at road surface) and 5'-6' deep at the midspan of the crossing. The roadway structure consists of heavy riprap, blasted/crushed ledge, and gravel aggregates. The heavy riprap and ledge are used to create a suitable base, build up the roadway, and provide armoring. The heavy riprap and aggregate material used to make the Island Road crossing creates a dam at the outlet of the flood channel where it rejoins the Carrabassett River. Recently, during a large rain event in late April of 2023, Island Road experienced significant damage including the destruction of the entire roadway crossing. Not only did the roadway crossing wash out, but the high flows also carried away all the material that made up roadway crossing at the time. After the flooding subsided, there was no longer a flood channel/Island Road crossing, cutting off all access to residents and any vehicle dependent emergency services. The flooding damage required the Town to take emergency action to re-establish safe access along Island Road. The road was stabilized with heavy riprap and other locally sourced aggregates as described above. The emergency repair, which serves only as a temporary measure until the next high flow event, cost \$17,000 in labor and materials. Although Island Road is currently stabilized and adequate for vehicular traffic, it was reconstructed in an expedient manner and did not account for permanent stabilization of the road surface or allow for proper drainage. For instance, the gravel surface materials appear to slowly erode and migrate to the large voids in the heavy rip-rap materials below. Not only are there replacement/reconstruction costs, but there are also regular/on-going costs associated with maintaining such a structure. The cost of regular maintenance activities has not been quantified. Bob says a formal site plan including existing and conceptual proposed conditions will be needed. As part of the overall site plan, a flood channel/streambank survey, and hydraulic modeling will be required. A typical stream survey requires upstream and downstream measurements be taken from the existing crossing structure; 20-30 times the width of the stream in distance, upstream and downstream. The structure is 70'+/- wide so 20-30 times this distance extends well beyond the inlet of the 800' long flood channel. So, a survey with cross sections taken every 75' along the entire length of the flood channel is recommended. With completed survey information and hydraulic modeling, a site plan can be developed, and stream crossing/roadway structure replacement options can be explored. Potential stream crossing options include multiple round culverts, multiple box culverts, or a bridge. Following further discussion Selectman Dunham makes a motion to spend up to \$1200.00 on a survey. Bob explains that there will need to be work completed along with the survey. Selectman Dunham amends her motion to not exceed \$3,000.00. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor. Bob indicates that he will then come back to the board for a site plan.

Board reviews the draft of a public participation guideline. TM Targett explains that it was originally created in 2018 by request of former Selectmen John Dill. The Board agrees that this should be added to every agenda and requests that it be enlarged and placed at the front entrance to meetings.

Board reviews three property abatements for billing done in error. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

Board reviews a sewer commitment covering October 1 to December 31, 2023. Selectman Dunham makes a motion to accept. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in favor.

Board reviews engagement letter from town attorney with 2024 rates and expectations. Board approves and directs TM Targett sign agreement.

Town Manager Updates/Discussion: NONE

Selectmen Discussion:

Selectmen Dunham asks that the board look at updating webster hall again. She was recently at the Town of Strongs meeting hall, and it was very nice one of the things she liked was the name plaques on everything that was donated by individuals. Selectman Dunham says we need to look at the ceilings and floor again. She would also like to discuss the water filling station again. She has found one for \$1,000.00 which is less than ½ the price of what she originally discussed. The board agreed this would need to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Selectman Jordan wanted to recognize Mt. Abram boys for winning the Class C State championship. She says they had a fantastic season; we have some amazing youth in our district which is something to be proud of. Selectman Jordan asks about the potholes from Rt 16 to Trenholm's on Riverside Street. Henry Williams explains that that area of road hasn't been touched or tarred in 18 years. Travis Targett explains that Public Works attempted to fix that are a year or two ago and during the very first storm all of it ended up on the McCluskey's lawn.

Chairman Browne asks if there has been any interest in a snowblower man. TM Targett says that no one has applied.

Public Comment/Other:

Claudia Diller wishes to discuss the community forum as she feels people are being racist and discriminatory and it needs to be monitored. Claudia says when people are interested in a town they go to a forum. 98% of the people there are okay but there are 2% that are not. Sometimes that person is way out of line, and it is harassment. I have heard from many people that don't even post as it sickens them. It is a reflection on the town. Chairman Browne says it is privately

owned and not the towns. If she doesn't like it, then get off of it. Chairman Browne says when someone comments it opens the door for other comments. Claudia says it is a poor reflection on this community. Kim Jordan says there is so much more good than bad. Claudia says yes but the bad is really bad. Chairman Browne says again it is privately owned. Claudia says she did not know that. Julie Swain says there are new supreme court rulings that need to be looked at for the community forum. Julie says that the town manager and board should not post town business. Following further discussion, the board agrees not to act on this.

Selectman Dunham makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Jordan. All in Favor.

*The minutes provided above are a summary. Minutes by Leanna Targett.